



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	April 25, 2024
SUBJECT:	Approve the Redding Area Bus Authority's (RABA) Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program Application for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 to Operate the Burney Express Bus Service
AGENDA ITEM:	7-10
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Approve the Redding Area Bus Authority's (RABA) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 to operate the Burney Express (Route 299X) bus service; and
2. Authorize the executive director to provide certifications, assurances, and other requested information to Caltrans and FTA, and make amendments as needed for RABA to be considered for competitive grant funding.

DISCUSSION:

The FTA provides funding for rural transit services via the Section 5311 program and, specifically, intercity transit via the Section 5311(f) program. Caltrans administers 5311(f) funds through a competitive process. SRTA is responsible for reviewing and approving 5311(f) applications in the Shasta Region prior to Caltrans review for funding ([SRTA's Policies and Procedures Manual](#), Chapter 3.15, page 309).

Caltrans issued a call for projects on April 9, 2024. Project applications are due to Caltrans on May 30, 2024. RABA is seeking an FTA 5311(f) grant for \$281,800 to fund Route 299X bus service for the operating period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Staff recommends approving RABA's application so Caltrans may consider funding the project.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose not to approve RABA's 5311(f) application. Doing so would require RABA to use federal and state formula funds apportioned to the region or one-time rural public transit funds for Route 299X operating costs. These funds include: one-time federal COVID relief programs, annual FTA 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program, and/or Transportation Development Act (TDA) State Transit Assistance (STA).

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

RABA will submit the application to Caltrans. Caltrans selects projects and administers the program. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) were informed of, reviewed, and discussed the FTA 5311(f) call for projects on April 11, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

RABA's \$281,800 FTA Section 5311(f) FFY 2024 application, if funded and combined with rider fares, is anticipated to fully fund Route 299X for the operating period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This strategy efficiently funds rural transit needs first with the use of competitive 5311(f) funds, if awarded, and allows more TDA Local Transportation Fund (LTF) amounts for other needs, including streets and roads as long as there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Tiedgen", is written over a horizontal line.

Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Executive Director